

# THE BLAST

Your Source for Everything Y.A.B. **February 2014**

## What's Inside

- YAB is an Exemplary Program!
- YAB takes on Age Appropriate Freedoms
- The Affordable Care Act and you!

## Congratulations Youth Advisory Board!!

The Youth Advisory Board was chosen as an **Exemplary Program** for the Center for the Study of Social Policy's (CSSP) Youth Thrive Framework Initiative! A lot of energy, creativity and passion goes into coordinating YAB efforts. The youth who participate in YAB are passionate about making foster care a better experience for kids and youth who find themselves in that situation. CSSP chose YAB for its strengths in youth engagement, youth voice, advocacy and its history of positively informing PA's practice with youth in care.

YAB's Project Managers, Chris and Barbara, will be heading to Florida to meet the other programs that received this award. They will bring back ideas on how to improve our programs, and some great networking opportunities! Congratulations on your hard work and we hope that you have a lot of pride in yourselves!

## YOUTH THRIVE

PROTECTIVE & PROMOTIVE FACTORS FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING

## Upcoming Dates

### Statewide Dates

3/6/14  
10-3 at CWRC

### Regional Dates

North Central  
4/7/14 at 5:30pm

North East  
3/13/14 at 5pm

South Central  
3/27/14 at 4:30pm

South East  
2/19/14 at 5pm

South West  
3/3/14 at 4pm

## YAB takes on Age Appropriate Freedoms

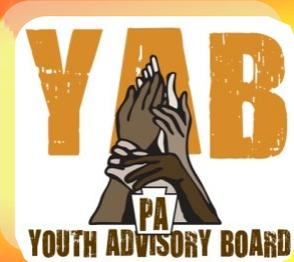
For as long as YAB has been around, members have talked about Age Appropriate Freedoms. Interestingly enough, youth who are not in foster care do not have to use this term. Its called "being normal." It is not to say that you cannot be normal and find yourself in foster care. That is the message YAB wants to make this year; that youth in care should be allowed to live as normal lives as possible. That means they should be allowed to spend time with their friends, work, date, play sports and have a curfew that meets their level of responsibility.

YAB also wants to tackle consistency of rules. Youth who get lost in the foster care shuffle often have to learn a whole new set of rules and expectations for every placement. This makes growing, healing and building relationships with people around you very difficult. Does this sound like exciting work to you? Do you want to have your voice heard about this really important topic? Come to a YAB meeting near you!

[www.independentlivingpa.org](http://www.independentlivingpa.org)

[Lifeistransition.tumblr.com](http://Lifeistransition.tumblr.com)





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## THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR HEALTH INSURANCE.

# YES, YOU!

ARE YOU A FORMER FOSTER CARE YOUTH?

DID YOU LEAVE CARE ON OR AFTER YOUR 18TH BIRTHDAY?

ARE YOU UNDER THE AGE OF 26 YEARS OLD?

### UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT:

- Any youth in the foster care system any time on or after their 18th birthday (from ANY state) may qualify to receive healthcare benefits beginning January 1, 2014 in Pennsylvania.
- Coverage may last until age 26.
- You can apply now!

### WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- APPLY!
- If you are still involved with children and youth services, ask your caseworker! You may have been automatically signed up, but asking does not hurt.
- Spread the word to your friends! They may not know. Now you do! Help them out!

### GOOD, SIGN ME UP!

- Apply online through COMPASS: [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)
- Call the PA Consumer Service Center at 1-866-550-4355 to apply or ask questions.
- You can find additional information on [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) and [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us)

